

Message Text

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21

ACTION EA-09

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FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1092

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

FBIS OKINAWA

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 7874

NOT RELEASABLE TO FOREIGN NATIONALS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PINT, CH

SUBJ: FEI I-MIN COMMENTS ON THE PREPARATION OF PEOPLE'S DAILY
EDITORIALS

1. DURING A JULY 6 CALL ON HONG KONG TA KUNG PAO PUBLISHER
FEI I-MIN, CONGENOFFS ASKED FEI TO DESCRIBE HIS IMPRESSION
OF THE MANNER IN WHICH PEOPLE'S DAILY AND JOINT EDITORIALS ARE
PRODUCED. FEI SAID THAT ON HIS LAST TRIP TO PEKING HE HAD
THE OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT THE OFFICES OF PEOPLE'S DAILY AND
DISCUSS THE WORK OF VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS WITH THE NEWSPAPER'S
STAFF. THE FOLLOWING IS FEI'S DESCRIPTION OF HOW A PEOPLE'S
DAILY EDITORIAL COMES INTO BEING.

2. FEI SAID THAT THE LARGE PEOPLE'S DAILY STAFF IS DIVIDED
INTO DEPARTMENTS FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, AGRICULTURE,
INDUSTRY, ETC. HE SAID THERE IS ALSO AN EDITORIAL DEPART-
MENT (PING LUN PU) WHICH HAS RESPONSIBILITY FOR PREPARING
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ALL EDITORIALS. THIS DEPARTMENT CAN DRAW ON THE RESOURCES

OF ALL OTHER DEPARTMENTS, INCLUDING A THEORETICAL UNIT, IN THE PREPARATION OF MAJOR EDITORIALS. FEI SAID THAT THE EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT IS MADE UP OF A GROUP OF YOUNG--30 TO 40 YEARS OLD--VERY TALENTED PEOPLE.

3. ONCE THE EDITORIAL IS PREPARED, IT IS THEN SENT TO YAO WEN-YUAN, WHO IS HEAD OF THE PROPAGANDA DEPARTMENT OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE. YAO REVIEWS THE EDITORIAL AND MAKES WHATEVER CHANGES ARE NECESSARY. FOR A MAJOR EDITORIAL LIKE THE JULY 1 JOINT RED FLAG/PEOPLE'S DAILY/LIBERATION ARMY DAILY EDITORIAL, YAO MUST SUBMIT THE DRAFT TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE POLITBURO FOR APPROVAL. FEI INDICATED THAT INDIVIDUAL COPIES OF THE EDITORIAL ARE SENT TO EACH MEMBER OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE, INCLUDING MAO, WHO ARE FREE TO MAKE COMMENTS OR SUGGEST ADDITIONS TO THE TEXT. FEI SAID EACH STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBER MUST SIGN HIS COPY OF THE DRAFT EDITORIAL TO SIGNIFY APPROVAL. FEI NOTED THAT, GIVEN THE EXTENSIVE SCREENING REQUIRED OF A MAJOR EDITORIAL, ITS PREPARATION USUALLY BEGINS SEVERAL DAYS BEFORE ITS ACTUAL PUBLICATION.
CROSS

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